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(54) **Improved load balancing of distributed printing systems using enhanced printer attributes**

(57) A distributed printing system that more optimally distributes job requests within a distributed printing system based on more detailed information about the particular attributes of each output device. In particular, additional printer attributes are used that allow greater utilization of a plurality of attached printers having differing capabilities. These attributes include "max-concurrent-jobs-processing" (MCJP), "number-of-jobs-on-

device" (NJOD) and "number-of-cascaded-jobs" (NCJ), and a attribute value "saturated" for the attribute "printer-state". The attribute MCJP is an integer value that is based on the capabilities of the printer. NJOB and NCJ attributes allow monitoring of jobs sent to each printer for supported and unsupported printers. If NJOB or NCJ are greater than MCJP, then the attribute "printer-state" is set to "saturated", prohibiting further spooling of print jobs to that particular printer.

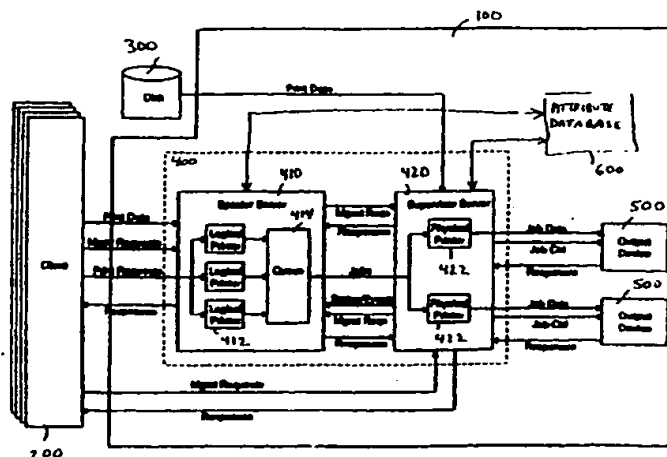


FIGURE - 1

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European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 98 30 9145

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
X	US 5 559 933 A (BOSWELL R STEPHEN) 24 September 1996 (1996-09-24) * the whole document *	1,4,6,7, 10	G06F3/12
A	EP 0 697 648 A (XEROX CORP) 21 February 1996 (1996-02-21) * figures 10-33 * * column 11, line 47 - column 17, line 51 *	1,4-6, 8-10	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			G06F H04L
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 13 March 2000	Examiner Weiss, P
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

EP 98 30 9145

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13-03-2000

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